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Implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Morocco:* draft resolution

Implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling also the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] adopted by heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Bearing in mind the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development[2] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[3]

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the Monterrey Consensus

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

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of the International Conference on Financing for Development[4] and in the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[5]

Recognizing that, for the poverty eradication strategy to be effective, it is imperative that developing countries be integrated into the world economy and share equitably in the benefits of globalization,

Recognizing also the great potential of the World Solidarity Fund in contributing to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[6]

2. Stresses that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, and that, although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals;

3. *Also stresses* that the recovery of the world economy has remained weak and slow, owing to the persistence of structural imbalances, the slow growth in the developed economies and the continuation of the acute problems faced by the developing countries in pursuing socio-economic development, which severely limits their capacity to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and their own national targets with regard to the eradication of poverty;

4. *Reaffirms* that the eradication of poverty should be addressed in an integrated way, as set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[7] taking into account the importance of the need for the empowerment of women and sectoral strategies in such areas as education, development of human resources, health, human settlements, rural, local and community development, productive employment, population, environment, water and sanitation, food security, energy and migration and the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and to strengthen their assets so as to achieve development, security and stability, and in that regard encourages countries to develop their national poverty reduction policies in accordance with their national priorities, including, where appropriate, through poverty reduction strategy papers;

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[4] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

[6] A/58/179.

[7] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

5. *Recognizes* that an increasing number of countries have intensified their efforts to strengthen participatory decision-making processes and to improve accountability and transparency in public affairs;

6. *Regrets* the modest progress achieved in realizing the commitments undertaken by the international community and Governments, while stressing the importance of good governance at the global level as being fundamental for achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development;

7. *Also regrets* that the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Cancun, Mexico, from 10 to 14 September 2003, failed to produce an agreement seeking to address the interests and concerns of the developing countries, which had a negative impact on the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and calls for the implementation of the Doha agenda, adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha from 9 to 13 November 2001, during the forthcoming negotiations in Geneva;

8. *Stresses* the importance of the follow-up to the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and calls for the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus[4] and its monitoring and assessment by Member States and international institutions in order to carry the process forward, taking into account the importance of achieving greater equity in international economic relations and of giving a greater voice to developing countries in the multilateral decision-making structures and processes;

9. *Underlines* that external assistance and international cooperation are key in supporting the efforts of developing countries to utilize fully their domestic resources for development and poverty eradication and in ensuring that they will be able to achieve the development goals as envisioned in the Millennium Declaration;[2]

10. *Recognizes* that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and that to build support for official development assistance, cooperation is necessary to further improve policies and development strategies to enhance aid effectiveness, both nationally and internationally, and in that regard requests those countries that made announcements of increased official development assistance at the International Conference on Financing for Development to make those resources available as soon as possible;

11. *Urges* developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts to reach the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,[8] encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets, acknowledges the efforts of all donors, commends those donors whose official development assistance contributions exceed, reach or

[8] See A/CONF.191/11.

are increasing towards the targets, and underlines the importance of undertaking to examine the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;

12. *Recognizes* that an enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance, and that efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community;

13. *Notes with great concern* the continuing debt and debt-servicing problems of the developing countries, which is adversely affecting their sustainable development efforts, stresses the need for creditors and debtors to assume responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations and to provide debt relief and, as appropriate, debt cancellation, in order to enhance activities geared towards poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and calls for the full, speedy and effective implementation of the enhanced heavily indebted poor countries initiative;

14. *Calls upon* the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries;

15. *Reaffirms* the importance of the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming as critical underlying factors for effective poverty-eradication strategies;

16. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education, in particular basic education and training, especially for girls, in empowering those living in poverty, reaffirms in that context the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,[9] and recognizes the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education For All programmes as a tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

17. *Recognizes* the devastating effect of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious, contagious diseases on human development, economic growth and poverty reduction efforts in all regions, and urges Governments and the international community to give urgent priority to combating those diseases, welcomes the Fifteenth International Conference on HIV/AIDS to be held in Thailand in 2004 and, in that respect, welcomes the recent agreement on paragraph 6 of the Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and public health, adopted at Doha;

18. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take measures to operationalize the World Solidarity Fund by establishing on an urgent basis a high-level committee to define the strategy of the Fund and to mobilize resources;

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[9] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000*, Paris, 2000.

19. *Acknowledges* the need to enlarge the involvement of developing countries in joint efforts to overcome extreme poverty and, in this context, takes note of the initiatives undertaken by the developing countries, including those announced at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

20. *Takes note* of the initiatives undertaken by regional and subregional organizations for overcoming extreme poverty;

21. *Recognizes* the crucial role that microcredit and microfinance could play in the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of vulnerable groups and the development of rural communities, encourages Governments to adopt policies that support microcredit schemes and the development of microcredit institutions and their capabilities, and calls upon the international community to support those efforts;

22. *Stresses*, as recognized in the Millennium Declaration, the importance of meeting the special needs of Africa, where poverty remains a major challenge and where most countries have not benefited fully from the opportunities of globalization, which has further exacerbated the continent's marginalization;

23. *Calls upon* the developed countries and the United Nations system to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[10] the primary objective of which is to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development on the basis of African ownership and leadership and enhanced partnership with the international community;

24. *Calls upon* the Governments of the least developed countries and their development partners to implement fully the commitments contained in the Brussels Declaration[11] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[12] adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001;

25. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action,[13] adopted at the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, held at Almaty on 28 and 29 August 2003, which established a global framework for developing efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries, and stresses that the implementation of this programme requires active cooperation among the landlocked developing countries, the transit developing countries, the developed countries and the international financial institutions;

26. *Supports* the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[14] to be held in Mauritius in 2004;

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[10] A/57/304, annex.

[11] A/CONF.191/12.

[12] A/CONF.191/11.

[13] A/CONF.202/3, annex I.

[14] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

27. *Calls for* the full implementation of resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, which provide a comprehensive basis for the follow-up to the outcomes of those conferences and summits and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the eradication of poverty and hunger, and in this context reaffirms the decision to hold a major event in 2005 to review progress made in the implementation of all the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration;

28. *Reaffirms* the role of United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and its associated funds, in assisting the national efforts of developing countries, inter alia, in the eradication of poverty, and the need for their adequate and predictable funding in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

30. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".